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January 13, 1978

CHINA'S STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROGRAM

- I. The Chinese continue to improve their limited but credible nuclear strike capability. China's 90 TU-16 jet bombers could deliver nuclear bombs on targets close to China's borders, and Peking's 70 ballistic missile launchers can reach targets throughout most of Asia.

MAP:  
Missile  
deployment &  
ranges

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- A. There are some 30 CSS-1 MRBMs with a 600 nautical mile range and about 40 CSS-2 IRBMs with a 1,500 nautical mile range. They are deployed at surface launch sites.
- B. China has two CSS-3 ICBMs with a 3,600 nautical mile range deployed in silos in central China from where they could reach Moscow and the western USSR.

1. There is no evidence of new silo construction for the CSS-3 ICBM, but

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the Chinese intend to deploy this missile at "soft" sites as well.

NSA review completed

NGA Review Completed.

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E. Over the past two years, there has been little expansion of the missile force with only a few surface launch sites added to the total.

1. Although the number of missiles deployed is small in comparison to US and Soviet forces, the concealment and deployment techniques the Chinese have employed make impossible their assured, complete destruction.

II. The Chinese are currently developing at least two other missiles -- an ICBM and an SLBM -- that will enable them to deliver nuclear warheads on targets throughout the world, including the continental US.

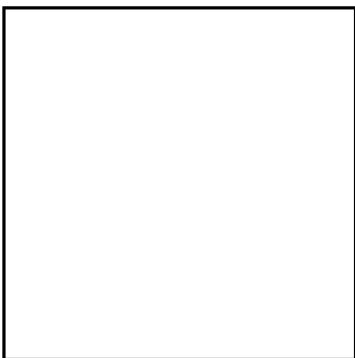
25X1D [REDACTED] A. The CSS-X-4 ICBM, under development since the 1960's, is a large, liquid propellant missile similar to the US Titan II. It has an estimated range of 7,000 nautical miles. The Chinese have also used this booster as a space launch vehicle.

1. Although its early test flights as an ICBM were plagued with failures, its successes as a space booster and a flight test from a surface pad last year suggest the Chinese have solved their major problems.

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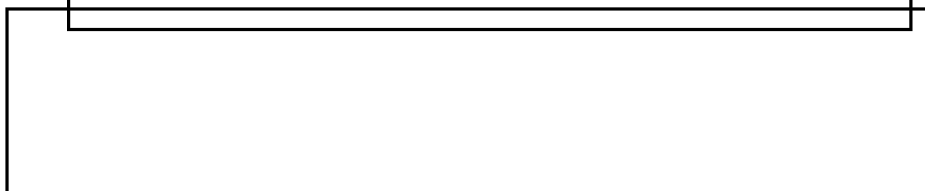


GRAPHIC:  
Line drawing  
of strategic  
missiles

3. The silos and missile probably will not be operational before 1980.

B. The other strategic missile is a two-stage solid-propellant system which we believe may have a range of about 1,500 nautical miles. We believe it is primarily about intended to be a submarine launched missile like the US Polaris but it also may be deployed in a land-based version.

1. The SLBM program is not as advanced as the CSS-X-4.



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3. We believe the Chinese are simultaneously constructing at least one nuclear-powered submarine to carry this missile. The entire system probably will not be operational before the 1980s.

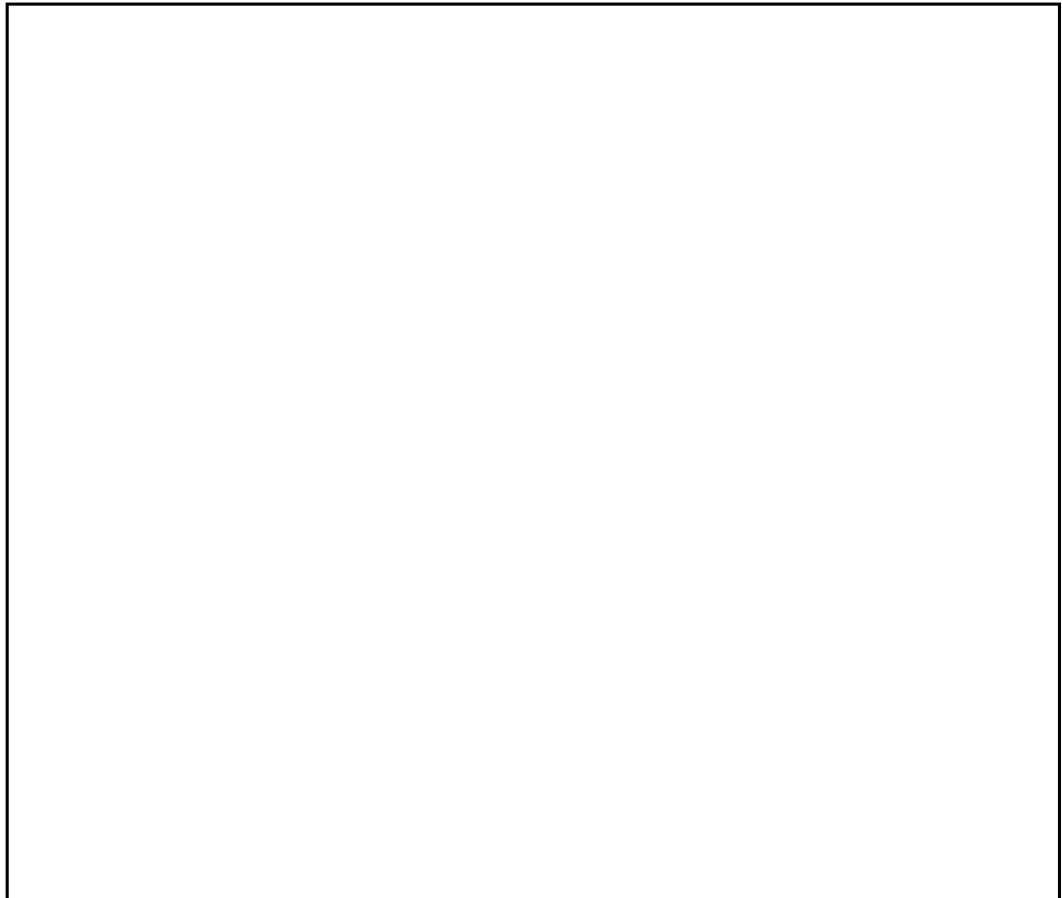
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PHOTO:  
New nuclear  
submarine

D. The Chinese recently launched their second nuclear-powered submarine, but like their first Han-class which was launched in 1970, it is a torpedo attack submarine.

1. We believe that the Han-class serves in part, as a prototype for the hull form and propulsion system for the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine the Chinese are building.

III.



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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the Chinese are preparing to launch a satellite shortly -- their first attempt in over a year.

1. We believe the satellite will carry a photoreconnaissance system.

2. [REDACTED]

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V. The Chinese have conducted 22 nuclear tests since their first detonation at Lop Nor in 1964.

GRAPHIC:  
Chinese  
nuclear tests

- A. Over half of the test devices have been dropped from aircraft, and one was delivered by a CSS-1 missile in 1966.
- B. Only one nuclear test was conducted by the Chinese last year; four devices were detonated in 1976, more than in any previous year.
- C. In the last decade improved weapons' designs and new production facilities have increased Chinese potential to produce nuclear weapons -- depending on their design -- at a sustained annual rate of as many as 100 to 150 warheads.

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VI. China is developing a network of radars to provide all-around early warning of ballistic missile attack.

- A. Since about 1970, they have been working on a large phased array radar at Hsuan-hua near Peking that may become operational soon.
- B. The radar is ideally suited to detect ICBMs launched from most Soviet complexes, and will be able to give up to 8 or 10 minutes of warning of missile attacks from the central and western Soviet Union.
- C. Other, conventional radars provide coverage of missile launches from the Sea of Japan and eastern Siberia but their warning time might only be 2 or 3 minutes.

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